

What is claimed is:

1. A polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its 5 amide or ester, or a salt thereof.
2. A polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1, wherein substantially the same amino acid sequence is represented by SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 18, SEQ ID NO: 33 or SEQ ID NO: 50.
- 10 3. A partial peptide of the polypeptide according to claim 1, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.
4. A partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 3, comprising amino acid residues 81 (Met) to 92 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 1.
- 15 5. A partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 3, comprising amino acid residues 101 (Ser) to 112 (Ser) of SEQ ID NO: 1.
6. A partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 3, comprising amino acid residues 124 (Val) to 131 (Phe) of SEQ ID 20 NO: 1.
7. An amide of the partial peptide of the polypeptide according to claim 1, or a salt thereof.
8. A DNA containing a DNA bearing a base sequence encoding the polypeptide of claim 1.
- 25 9. A DNA according to claim 8 having the base sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 19, SEQ ID NO: 34 or SEQ ID NO: 51.
10. A DNA containing a DNA encoding the partial peptide of claim 3.
11. A DNA according to claim 10, comprising bases 241 to 276 of the 30 base sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2.
12. A DNA according to claim 10, comprising bases 301 to 336 of the base sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2.

13. A DNA according to claim 10, comprising bases 370 to 393 of the base sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2.
14. A recombinant vector containing the DNA of claim 8 or claim 10.
15. A transformant transformed with the recombinant vector of claim 14.
- 5 16. A method for manufacturing the polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1 or the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 3, which comprises culturing said transformant of claim 15 and producing and accumulating the polypeptide of claim 1 or the partial peptide of claim 3.
- 10 17. An antibody to the polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1 or the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof according to claim 3.
18. A diagnostic composition comprising the DNA according to claim 8 or claim 10 or the antibody according to claim 17.
- 15 19. An antisense DNA having a complementary or substantially complementary base sequence to the DNA according to claim 8 or claim 10 and capable of suppressing expression of said DNA.
- 20 20. A composition comprising the polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1 or the partial peptide, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 3.
21. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1 or the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 3.
- 25 22. A method for screening a compound that accelerates or inhibits the activity of the polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1 or the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 3, which comprises using the polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1 or the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 3.
- 30 23. A method for screening according to claim 22, wherein the polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1 or the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 3 and a protein containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence

as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 37, or a salt thereof, or the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, are employed.

24. A kit for screening a compound that accelerates or inhibits the activity of the polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1 or the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 3, comprising the polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1, or the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 3.

25. A kit for screening according to claim 24, comprising the polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1 or the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 3 and a protein containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 37 or the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

26. A compound that accelerates or inhibits the polypeptide, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1 or the partial peptide, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 3, which is obtainable using the screening method according to claim 22 or the screening kit according to claim 24.

27. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound that accelerates or inhibits the polypeptide, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1 or the partial peptide, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 3, which is obtainable using the screening method according to claim 22 or the screening kit according to claim 24.

28. A protein or a salt thereof containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 37.

29. A protein or a salt thereof according to claim 28, wherein substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 37 is the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 54.

30. A partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 28.

31. A DNA containing a DNA having a base sequence encoding the protein according to claim 28 or the partial peptide according to claim 30.
32. A DNA according to claim 31 having the base sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 38, SEQ ID NO: 55 or SEQ ID NO: 56.
- 5 33. A recombinant vector containing the DNA according to claim 31.
34. A transformant transformed with the recombinant vector according to claim 33.
- 10 35. A method for manufacturing the protein or a salt thereof according to claim 28 or the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 30, which comprises culturing the transformant according to claim 34 and producing and accumulating the protein according to claim 28 or the partial peptide according to claim 30.
- 15 36. An antibody to the protein or a salt thereof according to claim 28 or the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 30.
37. A diagnostic composition comprising the DNA according to claim 31 or the antibody according to claim 36.
- 20 38. A ligand to the protein or a salt thereof according to claim 28, which is obtainable by using the protein or a salt thereof according to claim 28 or the partial peptide or its amide or ester or, a salt thereof, according to claim 30.
- 25 39. A method for determination of a ligand to the protein or a salt thereof according to claim 28, characterized by using the protein or a salt thereof according to claim 28 or the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 30.
- 30 40. A method for screening a compound that alters the binding property between a ligand and the protein or a salt thereof according to claim 28, which comprises using the protein or a salt thereof according to claim 28 or the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 30.
41. A kit for screening a compound that alters the binding property between a ligand and the protein or a salt thereof according to claim 28,

comprising the protein or a salt thereof according to claim 28 or the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 30.

42. A compound that alters the binding property between a ligand and the protein or a salt thereof according to claim 28, which is obtainable by
5 using the screening method according to claim 40 or the screening kit according to claim 41.

43. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound that alters the binding property between a ligand and the protein or a salt thereof according to claim 28, which is obtainable by using the screening method
10 according to claim 40 or the screening kit according to claim 41.

44. A method for quantifying the protein or a salt thereof according to claim 28, which comprises using the antibody of claim 36.

45. A prolactin secretion regulatory agent comprising a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the
15 amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

46. The agent according to claim 45, wherein substantially the same amino acid sequence is represented by SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 18, SEQ ID NO: 33 or SEQ ID NO: 50.

20 47. A prolactin secretion regulatory agent comprising a partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

25 48. The prolactin secretion regulatory agent according to claim 47, comprising a partial peptide composed of acid residues 81 (Met) to 92 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

49. The prolactin secretion regulatory agent according to claim 47, comprising a partial peptide composed of amino acid residues 101 (Ser) to 112 (Ser) of SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

30 50. The prolactin secretion regulatory agent according to claim 47, comprising a partial peptide composed of amino acid residues 124 (Val) to 131 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

51. The prolactin secretion regulatory agent according to claim 47, comprising a partial peptide composed of amino acid residues 56 (Ser) to 92 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

52. The prolactin secretion regulatory agent according to claim 47, comprising an amide of a partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, or a salt thereof.

10 53. The prolactin secretion regulatory agent according to claim 52, comprising a partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, the C-terminal carboxyl of which is amidated, or a salt thereof.

54. The prolactin secretion regulatory agent according to claim 45 or 47, which is a prolactin secretion stimulant.

15 55. The prolactin secretion regulatory agent according to claim 45 or 47, which is a prolactin secretion inhibitor.

20 56. The prolactin secretion stimulant according to claim 54, which is a medicament for the prevention or treatment of hypoovarianism, spermatocytic underdevelopment, osteoporosis, menopausal symptoms, agalactosis, hypothyroidism or renal insufficiency.

25 57. The a prolactin secretion inhibitor according to claim 55, which is a medicament for the prevention or treatment of hyperprolactinemia, pituitary tumor, diencephalon tumor, menstrual disorder, stress, autoimmune diseases, prolactinoma, sterility, impotence, amenorrhea, lactorrhea, acromegaly, Chiari-Frommel syndrome, Argonz-del Castillo syndrome, Forbes-Albright syndrome, breast cancer lymphoma or Sheehan's syndrome, or spermatogenesis disorder.

58. The prolactin secretion regulatory agent according to claim 45 or 47, which is a galactosis stimulant for livestock mammal.

30 59. The prolactin secretion regulatory agent according to claim 45 or 47, which is a test agent for prolactin secretion function.

60. A prolactin secretion regulatory agent comprising a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the activity of (i) a polypeptide containing the

same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by

5 SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, which is obtainable using: a method of screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the activity of (i) a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a

10 polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, which comprises using (i) a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof; or,

15 a kit for screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the activity of (i) a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof; the kit comprising (i) a polypeptide

20 containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

25 61. A prolactin secretion regulatory agent comprising a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the activity of (i) a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof,

or (ii) a partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, which is obtainable using:

- (I) a method of screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the activity of (i) a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, which comprises using (i) a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, and (iii) a protein containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 37 or a salt thereof, or its partial peptide, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof; or,
- (II) a kit for screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the activity of (i) a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof; the kit comprising (i) a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, and (iii) a protein containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 37 or a salt thereof, or its partial peptide, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

62. (1) A peptide containing an amino acid sequence composed of 81(Met) to 92 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, (2) a peptide containing an amino acid sequence composed of 101(Ser) to 112 (Ser) of SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, (3) a peptide
5 containing an amino acid sequence composed of 124(Val) to 131 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, (4) a peptide containing an amino acid sequence composed of 56 (Ser) to 92 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, (5) a peptide containing an amino acid sequence composed of 81 (Met) to 92 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 14, its amide or
10 ester, or a salt thereof, (6) a peptide containing an amino acid sequence composed of 101 (Ser) to 112 (Leu) of SEQ ID NO: 14, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, (7) a peptide containing an amino acid sequence composed of 58 (Ser) to 92 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 14, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof,
15 (8) a peptide containing an amino acid sequence composed of 83 (Val) to 94 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 33, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, (9) a peptide containing an amino acid sequence composed of 118 (Phe) to 125 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 33, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, (10) a peptide containing an amino acid sequence composed of 58 (Ser) to 94 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 33, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (11) a peptide containing an amino
20 acid sequence composed of 58 (Ser) to 94 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 50, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

63. An amide of the peptide according to claim 62, or a salt thereof.

64. The peptide according to claim 62 wherein the C-terminal carboxyl is amidated, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

25 65. A DNA encoding the peptide according to claim 62.

66. The DNA according to claim 65, containing (1) a 241-276 base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, (2) a 301-336 base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, (3) a 370-393 base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, (4) a 166-276 base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, (5) a 241-276 base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15, (6) a 301-336 base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15, (7) a 172-276 base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15, (8) a 247-282 base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 34, (9) a 352-375 base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 34, (10) a 172-282 base

sequence of SEQ ID NO: 34, or (11) a 172-282 base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 51.

67. An antibody to the peptide according to claim 62, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

5 68. A diagnostic comprising the DNA according to claim 65 or the antibody according to claim 67.

69. An antisense DNA having a base sequence complementary or substantially complementary to the DNA according to claim 65 and capable of inhibiting expression of the DNA.

10 70. An agent comprising the peptide according to claim 62, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

71. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the peptide according to claim 62, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

15 72. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 71, which is a prolactin secretion regulatory agent.

73. A method of screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the activity of the peptide according to claim 62, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, which comprises using the peptide according to claim 62, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

20 74. The method of screening according to claim 73, wherein a protein containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 37 or a salt thereof, or its partial peptide, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof is further used.

25 75. A kit for screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the activity of the peptide according to claim 62, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, which comprises using the peptide according to claim 62, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

30 76. A compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the activity of the peptide according to claim 62, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, which is obtainable using the screening method according to claim 73 or the screening kit according to claim 75.

77. Use of (i) a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by

SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament having
5 a prolactin secretion regulating activity.

78. A method of regulating the secretion of prolactin, which comprises administering to a mammal (i) a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (ii) a
10 partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

79. Use of a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the activity of (i) a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid
15 sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament having a prolactin
20 secretion regulating activity, which is obtainable using:

a method of screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the activity of (i) a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a
25 polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, which comprises using (i) a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof; or,
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a kit for screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the activity of (i) a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a 5 polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof; the kit comprising (i) a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a 10 salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

80. Use of a compound or its salt that that promotes or inhibits the activity of (i) a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same 15 amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament having 20 a prolactin secretion regulating activity, which is obtainable using:

(I) a method of screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the activity of (i) a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a 25 polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, which comprises using (i) a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a 30 salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, and (iii) a protein containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence

represented by SEQ ID NO: 37 or a salt thereof, or its partial peptide, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof; or,

(II) a kit for screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the activity of (i) a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same 5 amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof; the kit comprising (i) a polypeptide 10 containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, and (iii) a 15 protein containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 37 or a salt thereof, or its partial peptide, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

81. A method of regulating the secretion of prolactin, which comprises administering to a mammal a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits 20 the activity of (i) a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its 25 amide or ester, or a salt thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament having a prolactin secretion regulating activity, which is obtainable using:

a method of screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the activity of (i) a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID 30 NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, which comprises using (i) a polypeptide

containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence

5 represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof. or,

a kit for screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the activity of (i) a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a

10 polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof; the kit comprising (i) a polypeptide

containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence

15 represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

82. A method of regulating the secretion of prolactin, which comprises administering to a mammal a compound or its salt that that promotes or

20 inhibits the activity of (i) a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its

25 amide or ester, or a salt thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament having a prolactin secretion regulating activity, which is obtainable using:

(I) a method of screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the activity of (i) a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by

30 SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, which comprises using (i) a polypeptide

containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence

5 represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, and (iii) a protein containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 37 or a salt thereof, or its partial peptide, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof; or,

(II) a kit for screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits

10 the activity of (i) a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its

15 amide or ester, or a salt thereof; the kit comprising (i) a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence

20 represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, and (iii) a protein containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 37 or a salt thereof, or its partial peptide, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.